

HAD BEEN ILL FOR SOME TIME

Heretofore the mail for Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, and the other southern states from the east has been carried to Mattoon on train No. 3 and from there it was taken on by

Mrs. Anna Doane of Merco who has been visiting Charles Brummet.

Cause for the Disastrous Explosion is Not Known--Scene of Horribly Burned Victims Baffles Description and Hundreds of People Flock to the Place of Accident--Men's Clothing all Burned From Bodies--Shock Felt Plainly in Sullivan

employed are for the most part well known by the miners of Hymara; the lurn and other adjoining mines.

of the county, the shock from the explosion was such as to cause great excitement and at Hymera the smoke

and running thence north to Beech
street; thence west to Section street;
thence north to the north shore

WEDNESDAY EVENING

March 18, 1908

COALMONT POWDER MILL BLOWS UP

For the second time in less than six months, a disastrous powder mill explosion occurred this morning when the press mill at the United States powder company's plant at Coalmont in the extreme southwest corner of Clay county blew up.

Various reports have been received from Coalmont as to the number of killed and injured and the amount of damage done and authentic news is almost unobtainable on account of the excitement prevailing there. According to the most authentic information three men were killed outright and four or five injured. The list of dead and injured reported is as follows:

Killed.

KRETE SIMMONS.
CHARLES GORBY.
LON SMITH.

Injured

CHARLES MYERS fatally injured
GEO. GORBY, badly burned.
SAM STEWART, seriously injured

The explosion occurred at exactly 7:28 this morning and was distinctly felt in this city. Some citizens report two or three heavy jars while others say that the doors shook violently and the chinaware rattled. As the Coalmont powder mill is about thirty miles from this city the shock was not violent enough to cause any alarm and little attention was paid to it, many people believing it a shot put off in a shale pit or some workings about the city.

The United States Powder company's mill is located about three-quarters of a mile north of Coalmont. The buildings are scattered over a 160 acre farm and are surrounded by a number of houses which were erected by the company for its employees. Bert Sarchett, formerly of this city, is superintendent of the mill and lived within a short distance of the plant. This is the first explosion that has occurred at the Coalmont mill which was built several years ago.

Word was received from Coalmont this afternoon that Charles Myers was not killed but is probably fatally injured. Myers moved to Coalmont some time ago from Cory and had been working in the powder mill for a year or more.

Lon Smith, who was so badly injured in the explosion, died about noon today, leaving the total number of dead three. Lon Smith is a son of John Smith of Morgan's crossing and is well known here. He went to Coalmont about a year ago to work in the powder mill, but previous to that time

had been working at the carpenter trade here.

Simmons is also of this city. All of the dead and injured, it is reported were in the press mill when it blew up. No explanation of the cause of the explosion has yet been given. All of the men who were killed or injured in the explosion were married men and lived in the vicinity of the mill.

The United States Powder company was an independent concern and had no connection with the DuPont powder trust which owned the destroyed Fontant Powder mill. The Coalmont mill was erected by a stock company of coal operators of the Sullivan and Greene county fields, and had been in operation about three years. It had a capacity of 1,000 kegs of finished powder a day and was not as large as the Fontanet mill.

The force of the explosion did considerable damage to the houses in the vicinity of the powder mill and also at Coalmont. Window panes were broken and chimneys blown down for some distance from the scene of the explosion.

A special from Sullivan says that the explosion occurred in the tenth wheel room and is supposed to have been caused by a spark from some of the machinery. The explosion occurred just as the day shift was relieving the night shift and all that were in the building were either killed or injured. The building in which the explosion occurred was a large brick structure and was blown to the ground.

Charles Gorby was blown about 200 feet in the air and was killed in falling to the ground. George Gorby, a nephew, was badly burned. Smith's death resulted from terrible burns about the head and face. Krete Simmons was burned to death, Charles Myers and Sam Stewart, two of the injured, were taken to the hospital at Terre Haute.

It is claimed that every plate glass window in the town of Coalmont and

many at Jasonville were shattered by the explosion.

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FOURTH VICTIM OF EXPLOSION DIES

The fourth death was added to the list of victims of the explosion of the United States Powder company's mill at Coalmont yesterday when Charles Myers died at St. Anthony's hospital at Terre Haute last evening.

William Meyers, a brother of the dead man; Sam Stewart and Charles Gorby, who were injured in the explosion, are getting along nicely and it is believed that they will recover.

A. G. Cummings, manager of the United States Powder company, stated last evening that the destroyed press mill would be rebuilt at once but that in the meantime the mill would continue in operation as the company had another press mill which was not damaged by the explosion.

The remains of Charles Myers will be taken to Riley where the funeral will occur tomorrow morning, interment at the Oak Hill cemetery at Riley. The remains of Lon Smith were brought to this city this afternoon and taken to the home of his parents at Morgan's Crossing.

Simmons and George Gorby, the other two victims of the explosion, will be buried at Coalmont where they lived.

The building in which the press was located was torn to pieces and timbers were scattered over several acres. The press machine itself, which weighed more than 20 tons, was thrown out of the building and turned completely over. Then the men who were in the building were thrown high into the air. George Gorby was thrown 300 yards from the building. Where his body struck the ground a hole was made in the soft surface large enough to bury a man. The body then bounced about 50 feet. It was mutilated beyond recognition and was burned to a crisp. The bodies of the other men who were killed were also badly burned and mangled. People living two miles from the scene of the explosion, declare that they saw the bodies of the men in the white smoke when the explosion occurred.

The greatest confusion followed. The people who had friends and relatives working at the mill rushed to the scene of the accident in frantic grief. The relatives of the men who were killed were prostrated with grief when the mutilated bodies were seen and the whole scene about the mills was pathetic.